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# THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vol. VI, No. 5

May, 1946

Washington, D. C.

## *They Didn't Wear Rubber Gloves*

### ARE YOU READY FOR AN **EMERGENCY?**

Artificial respiration can't wait. It must be started immediately. Ask yourself this question, "If I were called upon to give artificial respiration now, this very instant, to a member of the crew, my best friend or to a member of my family, would I be ready?" The answer should be yes.

If it is, then ask yourself this question, "If I should need artificial respiration to save my life, are the men with whom I work qualified to apply it?"

Teach every new man as soon as he starts to work! Make sure the regular employees keep in practice. (See Cartoon, page 4)

### CONFERENCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

E. H. Stovall, Mississippi Safety and Job Training Supervisor, states that two foreman's training conferences were held in April at Jackson, Miss. Dr. D. W. Aiken, State Teacher Trainer, Trade and Industrial Education, Mississippi State College, acted as conference leader. The Safety and Job Training Program is proving of great value in G.I. training and is helping Mississippi co-op managers to develop employees to carry out the post-war construction program.

A series of managers' training conferences will be held in Mississippi. The first meeting of this series will be conducted by Dr. Aiken May 17 and 18 at Jackson.

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### Lineman, Unharmed in War, Dies Replacing Pole

In Iowa a line crew was replacing a pole in a single-phase line which had been damaged by lightning. The work was done "hot". The damaged pole was on the inside of a fence. The new pole was set just outside the fence. The two poles were approximately two feet apart.

The position of both men in the crew was below the neutral. Lineman (A) was located on the northeast quarter of the new pole. Line Foreman (B) was located on the southwest quarter of the same pole. The phase wire had been transferred from the old pole to the new pole with live line tools and line foreman (B) had tied-in his side. All of the live-line equipment had been removed except two saddles. One saddle was located about knee high to the men on the pole; the other was a short distance above.

Lineman (A) had completed three turns with the tie wire. At this point the tie wire, contacted the pole top. Lineman (A) apparently contacted the neutral (which was still fastened to the old pole) at about the time the tie wire touched the pole top. This contact caused severe burns on the second and third fingers of the left hand. The shock from this contact caused him to slump in his belt and fall against the pole ground wire. The side of his body just below his ribs came in contact with this wire and caused an intense arc. The lineman's right knee was against the lower saddle.

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# THE REA LINEMAN

Vol. VI, No. 5

May, 1946

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for Employees of REA Systems

*David A. Fleming, Editor*

## - EDITORIAL COLUMN -

### BUILDING A SAFE CO-OP

J. Warren Smith, of the Division of Vocational Teachers' Training, North Carolina State College, told a group of REA foremen and managers recently that the first problem of a growing business is the selection of help; the second, training workers in the trade; the third, supervising these workers; the fourth, stimulating interest.

Mr. Smith, in this four-point statement, laid down the fundamental principles for building the kind of cooperative for which you would like to work.

Selection of employees is important. "The garment can be no better than the cloth from which it is cut". If the wrong type of employee is selected, our efforts in training him will be wasted. An employee who does not readily respond to proper training requires more and closer supervision. He monopolizes the time of the supervisory force and reduces the overall efficiency of the entire organization.

Inefficiency and lack of craft skill in some industries result only in increased cost and decreased production. In the electrical industry there is a third factor - danger to the employee and his fellow workmen.

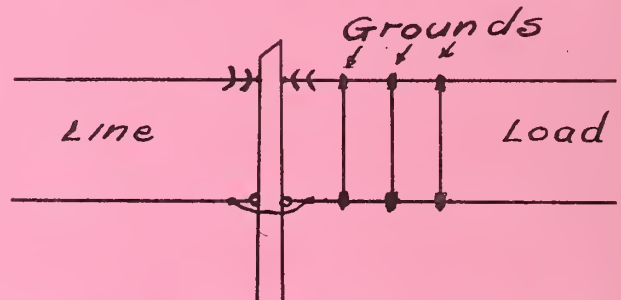
Safe work methods have been developed for every job a lineman is called upon to do. No amount of supervision can make up for lack of job "know how". Properly trained men working under good supervision make a combination that is hard to beat. They are interested in their job, the members they serve, and in each other. It all adds up to an organization that doesn't have accidents, gets the job done and develops with the expansion of the industry.

# MAIL BAG

## To The Editor:

This is the grounding practice which we have recommended for Iowa linemen:

At the point of disconnect, after disconnecting, place a ground set at this place in the approved manner. You have to come back to this place to energize again, and this ground gives you added protection by letting other crews know that you are on the line.



Suppose you had a bad storm and had to call in extra help from other co-ops. Every crew working on this line puts on its own ground set at this location, and only the crew that put on its ground set should remove it. After each crew finishes its work, the men come back to this place, remove their ground set and proceed on their way. The last crew coming back, seeing all the grounds off except its own knows that when it removes its ground set, they may energize the line as no one else is on the line.

This placing of the ground set at point of disconnect does not mean that you should not place grounds within sight of your working position.

Earl F. Ehlers  
Iowa Safety and Job  
Training Supervisor

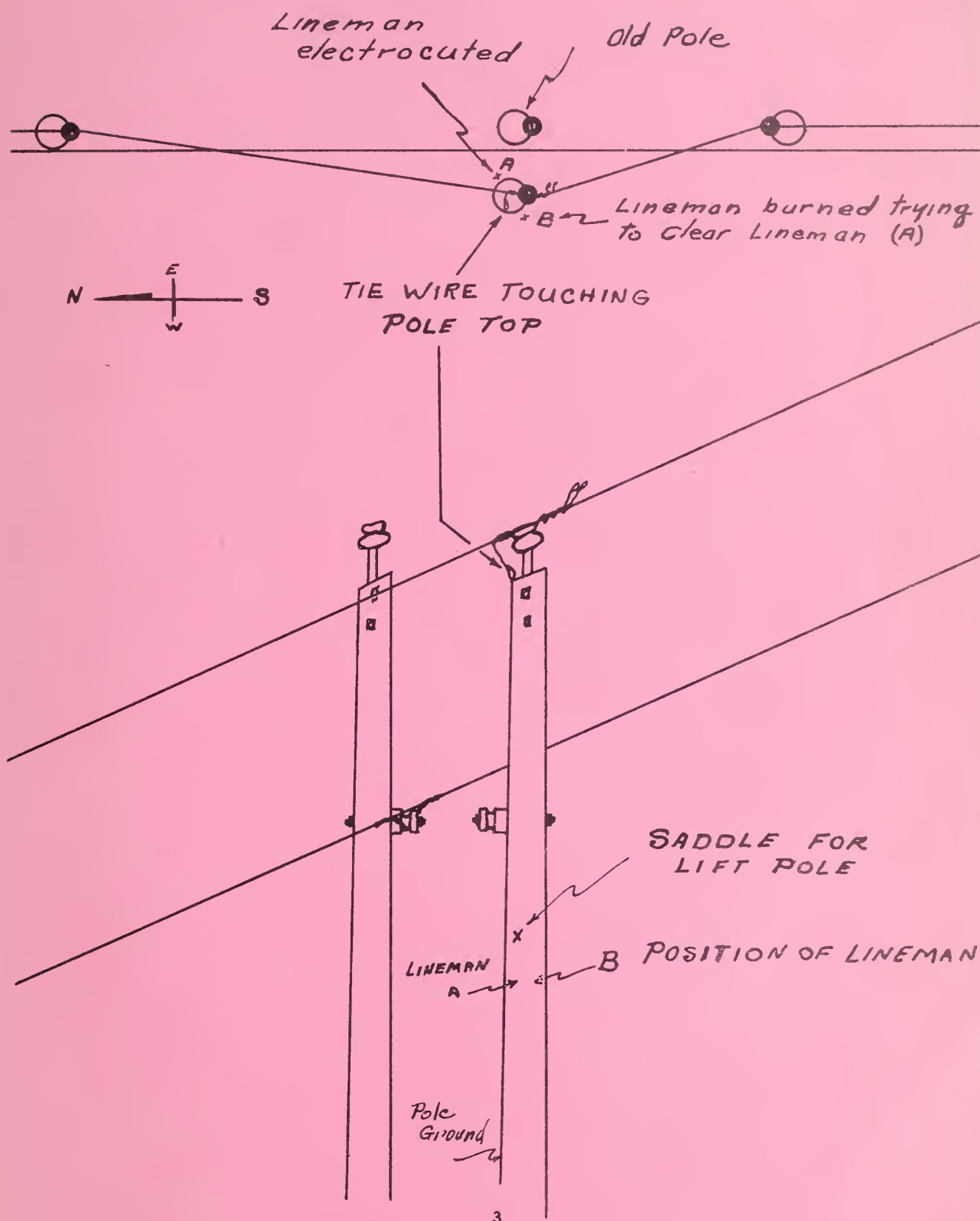
## To The Editor:

Kindly permit me to take this means of congratulating you on the fine "REA Lineman" we have been receiving.

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# Rubber Gloves In The Truck---Lineman Dies

(See Story Page 1)





## CONFERENCES (continued)

### OHIO

The 16th All-Ohio Safety Congress was held in Columbus, April 16, 17, 18, under auspices of the Ohio Industrial Commission.

George Hefferline, manager of the Holmes Rural Electric Cooperative, Millersburg, O. was presented with a 1945 Safety Award during the Utilities Section meeting for his splendid safety record last year. Chester High, Ohio Safety and Job Training Supervisor, made the presentation.

Full cooperation between the Department of Education and the Ohio managers, with the assistance of Chester High, has made the Ohio program a success.

### NORTH CAROLINA

Roy T. Anderson, North Carolina Safety and Job Training Supervisor, is conducting a series of training conferences. The last one was held in the REA co-op office at Lenior, N.C. Both REA linemen (including several returned GI's) and managers were in attendance.

### WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin REA Job Training and Safety Committee cooperating with the Wisconsin Schools of Vocational Education held a three-day Management Training Conference at Stevens Point, Wisconsin April 22, 23, 24.

### ALABAMA

The Alabama Safety and Job Training Advisory Committee is sponsoring a series of managers' training conferences. The first was held at Alabama University, May 14 and 15.

### MAIL BAG

(continued from page two)

Undoubtedly, this represents a lot of work and I think it has a tendency to get the story over to the linemen better than any other medium. *F.E. Fair, Manager*

*Eastern Iowa Light & Power Co-op* 4

## They Didn't Wear Rubber Gloves

(continued from page 1)

Line Foreman (B), in attempting to shove lineman (A) away from the pole ground, grasped the chain of one of the saddles and received severe burns in the palm of the right hand and little finger. It was apparent from gaff marks in (A's) thigh that several unsuccessful attempts had been made by (B) to shove (A) away from contact with the pole ground. The electric shock caused Line Foreman (B) to slump in his belt unconscious.

At this time men on the ground placed a ladder against the pole. One man put on rubber gloves and went to the assistance of the two unconscious men. He pushed Line Foreman (B's) leg out of contact with the body of (A) which was still in contact with the ground wire, and raised (B's) head. He then pushed A's body from contact with ground wire causing another arc. He was off balance and (A's) body again contacted the ground wire, causing a third arc. Line Foreman (B) revived at this time and was assisted down the ladder by members of the crew. A hand line was then tied to lineman (A) and his body lowered to the ground. Artificial respiration was started at once by members of the crew, but to no avail. Lineman (A) was a veteran, having returned from overseas duty December 1, 1945, honorably discharged.



*G. Perkins Jr.*